United Nations S/2015/187

Security Council

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18 March 2015
English
Original: French

Letter dated 16 March 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

In accordance with paragraph 26 of Security Council resolution 2164 (2014), I have the honour to transmit herewith a report on the actions undertaken by French forces in support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) from 3 December 2014 to 23 February 2015 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex

[Original: French]

Report on operational support provided by French forces to MINUSMA from 3 December 2014 to 23 February 2015

The present report, submitted pursuant to paragraph 26 of Security Council resolution 2164 (2014), describes the actions undertaken by French forces in support of MINUSMA from 3 December 2014 to 23 February 2015.

The report is the third of its kind since the adoption of resolution 2164 (2014), and the seventh since MINUSMA was established.

Previously, France submitted four reports to the Security Council which outlined six combat actions undertaken in response to an imminent and serious threat and highlighted the work of the liaison and operational support detachments for MINUSMA, as well as the support of French forces in caring for the wounded.

Since 3 December 2014, no combat action has been undertaken in response to an imminent and serious threat.

Nonetheless, it is worth noting the extent of the support provided by French forces to MINUSMA in several areas:

- Four interventions were carried out by explosive ordnance disposal teams of liaison and operational support detachments for MINUSMA units that had been the victims of incidents or that had discovered explosive devices (explosive ordnance disposal expert reports and joint post-blast analyses).
- Through many joint patrols and the direct support of French specialists (explosive ordnance disposal, medical teams, intelligence), the French liaison and operational support detachments deployed in support of MINUSMA battalions participate daily in fulfilling their mission to control the major cities and highways in the north of Mali, and improve the security situation for the inhabitants of the region.
- During the period in question, the Barkhane force also took part, alongside MINUSMA and the Armed Forces of Mali, in a coordinated and planned joint operation in the Batal plateau region (greater Gao area) in northern Mali from 28 December to 12 January.
- As part of the support provided by French forces in caring for wounded MINUSMA elements, two health support missions were undertaken:
  - On 25 January, at the request of MINUSMA, a civilian received treatment in Kidal before being transferred to the French role 2 hospital in Gao.
  - On 15 February, following an explosion in the Bangladeshi battalion's camp in Tabankort, four wounded Bangladeshi MINUSMA personnel were airlifted by helicopter to the French role 2 hospital in Gao, where two of them underwent surgery.

Furthermore, at the request of MINUSMA, the Barkhane force carried out five aerial shows of presence, as follows:

- Two shows of presence on 21 January in Tabankort

– One show of presence on 21 January in Kidal

– Two shows of presence on 22 January in Tabankort

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Letter dated 13 March 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Following the usual consultations, I wish to inform you of my intention to appoint Mr. Petko Draganov (Bulgaria) as my Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia in Ashgabat.

Mr. Draganov will succeed Mr. Miroslav Jenča (Slovakia).

Mr. Draganov is currently Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Geneva. In his new capacity, he will have overall authority over the activities of the Regional Centre and, in that regard, will provide leadership, political guidance and high-level operational management. He will build on the achievements of his predecessor and on the regional and international efforts of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Letter dated 17 March 2015 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 13 March 2015 (S/2015/188) concerning your intention to appoint Mr. Petko Draganov (Bulgaria) as your Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia in Ashgabat has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the intention expressed in your letter.

(*Signed*) François **Delattre**
President of the Security Council

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Letter dated 17 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter dated 17 March 2015 from the representative of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Raimonda **Murmokaitė**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 17 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces, it is with grave alarm that I draw your attention to a deadly chemical weapons attack perpetrated by Syrian regime aerial forces in the Province of Idlib, and the urgent need for decisive Security Council action to stop the Syrian regime's indiscriminate use of aerial power against civilians throughout Syria.

On Monday, 16 March 2015, Syrian regime forces dropped barrel bombs containing chlorine gas on the villages of Sarmin and Kminas in Idlib Province, south-west of the city of Aleppo. Kminas was hit at 8.30 p.m. and Sarmin was hit at 10.30 p.m. The chemical weapons attacks in Sarmin resulted in at least six civilian deaths, including those of three children, as well as their mother, father and grandmother. More than 70 other people reported suffering from choking symptoms, including seven members of the White Helmets civil defence team, who responded to the attacks. Medics and witnesses present at the site, as well as video footage taken of this illegal chemical weapons attack, offer clear evidence that the victims died of asphyxiation resulting from a toxic gas substance. Just hours after the attacks in Sarmin, Syrian regime forces launched scud missile attacks in Kafr Takharim, resulting in seven deaths.

The attacks in Idlib came just 10 days after the Security Council adopted resolution 2209 (2015), in which it noted that the use of toxic chemicals as a weapon would constitute a violation of resolution 2118 (2013) and decided, in the event of future non-compliance with resolution 2118 (2013), to impose measures under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

The evidence is clear: the Syrian regime has not complied with Security Council resolution 2118 (2013). It has repeatedly and systematically violated international humanitarian and international human rights law, including the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, to which Syria acceded on 22 November 1968, as well as Council resolutions 2118 (2013), 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014) and 2209 (2015).

It is time that these resolutions be enforced. The Security Council has the legal and moral authority needed to end the suffering in Syria and to stop the regime from bombing innocent civilians. By enforcing its resolutions and imposing measures under Chapter VII — as it has decided to do in two separate resolutions on the use of chemical weapons — it will send a strong signal to the Assad regime that it cannot act with impunity. There are consequences.

It is clear that a no-fly zone — to ensure safe zones on the ground — would also be an appropriate and proportionate step for the Security Council to take. Such action would protect civilians from Assad's aerial attacks, allow for secure access to humanitarian aid, enable refugees to return to Syria and create the conditions needed to effectively fight extremists such as ISIL. The Council has the legal authority and responsibility to take such action. But given the propensity of two of its members recklessly and repeatedly to wield their vetoes in support of the Syrian regime, we must look outside the Council for help. It is incumbent upon individual Member States to take the steps needed to protect the Syrian people — steps that

they are legally entitled to take — and to establish a no-fly zone over part of Syria. Failure to do so will prolong the suffering and loss of innocent Syrian lives, and will allow the direct security threat to the region and the world to become ever more imminent.

(*Signed*) Najib **Ghadbian**
Special Representative to the United Nations
National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces

United Nations S/2015/191

Security Council

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18 March 2015
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Letter dated 17 March 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the attached letter, dated 9 March 2015, from the President of Haiti, Michel Joseph Martelly, in which he refers to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and which he invites me to share with the Security Council (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

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Annex

I have the honour to bring to your attention the current efforts of the Government of Haiti to prepare for the forthcoming municipal, legislative and presidential elections. The holding of those elections this year is a crucial stage in the consolidation of democracy, the rule of law and the promotion of development in Haiti.

The legal framework and administrative structures necessary for the conduct of the elections are being put into place as planned. The Provisional Electoral Council is already fully operational. The electoral decree that it drafted was officially published on 2 March 2015, following extensive discussions with all political stakeholders. Immediately afterwards, I launched consultations with all interested parties with a view to the establishment by the Electoral Council of a realistic electoral calendar that reflects the general consensus, while taking into account the deadlines stipulated in the Constitution. The process is generally agreed to be on track.

As you know, the establishment of an optimal security environment is essential to voters' confidence in the process and ultimately to the success of the elections.

In that regard, the Haitian Government attaches particular importance to the extremely constructive role played by the United Nations in the country in recent years and to the assistance provided to the Haitian authorities, particularly in the context of the mandate of MINUSTAH, with a view to ensuring the consolidation of the stable and secure environment needed for the smooth conduct of the elections.

At this critical juncture, however, as the electoral process enters its decisive phase, we are witnessing a worrying rise in violence, characterized in particular by renewed clashes among armed groups in certain low-income neighbourhoods, a perceptible increase in crime characterized by attacks on individuals, including policemen on duty, and frequent disturbances at demonstrations organized by radical opposition groups that are generally hostile to the holding of elections. Regrettably, such demonstrations often go hand in hand with the destruction of public property and facilities.

The Haitian Government therefore attaches the utmost importance to the maintenance of substantial United Nations assistance for the consolidation of security throughout the electoral cycle, in particular through the visible, robust presence of the military and police components of MINUSTAH, which, by more proactively supporting the initiatives of the National Police of Haiti, would make a most valuable contribution to the success of the next elections.

I should therefore like to request in particular that the United Nations suspend the current withdrawal of the MINUSTAH contingents. The Haitian Government would also very much appreciate the strengthening of the Mission's police component and its presence on the ground, as part of an increase in support to the National Police and more sustained participation in daily tasks related to security and the protection of citizens.

Lastly, I believe that it would be useful, in view of the context and the circumstances set out above, for us to jointly re-evaluate the arrangements for implementing the two-step drawdown plan mentioned in your August 2014 report to the Security Council (S/2014/617), in order to take into account changes in the situation on the ground during and after the electoral cycle.

The priority of my Government is to work unhindered towards the holding of inclusive elections under the best possible conditions of security, transparency and fairness, without which it is not possible to ensure the credibility and legitimacy that are indispensable to such elections.

It goes without saying that the present request in no way calls into question the legitimacy or the spirit of Security Council resolution 2180 (2014). In that regard, and with a view to the normalization of the situation in Haiti, as I announced in my statement during the general debate at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly in September 2014, I should like to formally reiterate my desire for a gradual and orderly withdrawal of MINUSTAH after the inauguration of the next elected president at the start of 2016.

Naturally, my Government is ready to work jointly with the office of your Special Representative in Haiti, whose work I should like to take this opportunity to commend, on the various possibilities and scenarios for the drawdown plan, which must enable the consolidation of the progress and achievements of MINUSTAH in the country.

I should like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to you in advance for considering this letter and for any action you might take in response, and to convey to you the renewed assurances of my highest consideration. I should also like to invite you to share the present letter with the President and members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Michel Joseph **Martelly**

United Nations A/69/821–S/2015/192

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 32
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Seventieth year

Letter dated 17 March 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the letter dated 25 February 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan (A/69/796-S/2015/140), I hereby draw your attention to the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic (A/66/708-S/2012/117, annex), which fully addresses the unfounded accusations contained in the above-mentioned letter.

I kindly request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 32, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zohrab **Mnatsakanyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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